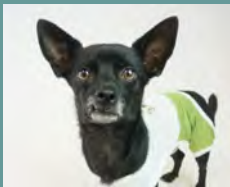
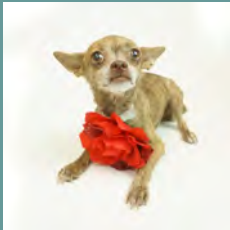




Trailin' Tails

OCTOBER — DECEMBER, 2015



Adoption Ambassadors Needed

We're happy to announce that we are participating in the ASPCA's Adoption Ambassador program. This program and its volunteers help pets find homes by allowing dogs to escape the stress of shelter life until they are adopted, while simultaneously creating more space in the shelters.

Using social media and word of mouth, Adoption Ambassadors are in charge of marketing their dogs and handling adoption paperwork on-site. An Adoption Ambassador is someone who is committed to finding their foster dog a loving family and understands that the dog will be in their care for an average of 3-4 weeks.

According to the ASPCA, Adoption Ambassador programs have shown that a dog adopted through this program has a

significantly lower return rate to the shelter, as the Ambassador is able to provide much more information about the dog to his/her adopters.

While our regular foster care program focuses on finding homes for underage puppies and kittens, the Adoption Ambassador program seeks fosters who are able to help adult dogs that are finding life difficult at the shelter (seniors, high energy or scared/anxious).

The first step to becoming an Adoption Ambassador is to contact our Alternative Placement Department. From there you'll complete an application and attend an orientation.

To sign up today, call (602) 372-1158 or email wilsterd@mail.maricopa.gov.



MCACC Alum, Beaumont



Networking pups at OHSO in Phoenix



Send Us Your Happy Tail!

Did you adopt a dog or cat from MCACC? We'd love to hear how they are doing. Send your stories and a photo to:

Public Information Office
MCACC
2500 S. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Or email: gablem@mail.maricopa.gov



Happy Tail



Chewy "Before"

He arrived at our West Valley Animal Care Center on July 21st, found as a stray wandering in a Phoenix mobile home community.

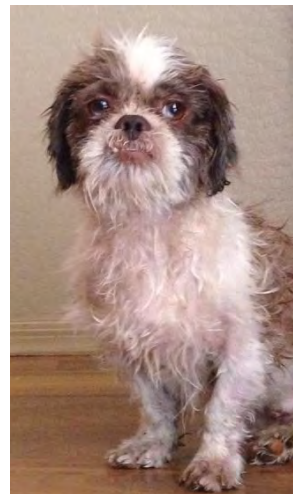
The tiny Shih Tzu mix had patches of hair loss along his back and whatever hair he did have was horribly matted. MCACC veterinarians performed tests to try and determine the cause of the pup's hair loss and dry, flakey skin.

The good news was that the tests revealed no parasites; the bad news was that MCACC didn't have resources for further testing and/or treatment.

No owner stepped forward to claim the dog and with his medical condition requiring treatment from a full service veterinarian, the Shih Tzu was placed on the euthanasia list.

Regardless of his medical condition and unkempt appearance, an Avondale family saw his photos and immediately fell in love.

Dedicated volunteers, Pam and Jim assisted the family through the adoption process.



After the paperwork was complete, the volunteers then took the dog (now

named Chewy) to a small grooming room and gave him a much needed bath and a quick trim.

Once home, Chewy thrived! He was taken to a professional groomer and introduced to a new canine sibling.

Because a group of people cared enough for a dirty, matted dog, he is now with a loving family who promises to care for him forever.

What a happy "tail!"



Chewy "After"

Helping Pets During the Holidays

It's hard to believe, but the holidays are right around the corner. The good news is that there's still plenty of time to help the dogs and cats housed at MCACC.

How can YOU help? We are always in need of volunteers—whether you are looking to help in the shelter or would prefer to serve as a temporary foster home to a shelter dog or cat. There's a list of volunteer job descriptions on our website at <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx>. You can complete a volunteer application on the site.

Maybe you don't have time to volunteer ... consider hosting a canned food drive for the animals in our care. Many dogs and cats come to us in bad shape—emaciated and hungry after spending days or weeks on the streets. We like to



MCACC Alum Calista Poses for her 2014 Donation Drive Photo

Finally, check out the Santa Paws Project on page 6. This is a great way to get involved for the holiday season and provide a new toy to a shelter pet.

You can also make a monetary donation through Friends of Animal Care & Control at www.azfriendsofanimals.org.

Regardless of what you do, any help offered to MCACC during the holiday season is much appreciated.



MCACC Volunteers Feed the Shelter Dogs a Christmas Eve Meal

supplement their diet with canned food to help add extra calories. You can drop off your donation at any of our shelter locations.

Wag & Walk is Back!

Be sure to join us on the first Saturday of each month through April for our Wag & Walk Adoption Hike Program. The program is a success thanks to a partnership with our friends at Maricopa County Parks & Recreation!

The Wag & Walk hikes take place at Usery Mountain Regional Park in Mesa. Hikers meet at 8:45 a.m. at the park's Merkle Trailhead for an easy one-mile scenic loop. Volunteers bring adoptable dogs from our East Valley Animal Care Center for a morning of fun, socialization and exercise!

Hikers are allowed to bring their own canine hiking companions (dogs must be on-leash, at least six months of age and fully vaccinated).



Volunteer Jim and "Alden" enjoy the great outdoors together



MCACC Alum,
Butternut

Holiday Safety Tips ...

The holidays are a time to be thankful, but you won't be giving thanks if you end up at the Emergency Veterinary Clinic with a sick dog or cat. While the holidays are a festive time, they also present many potentially dangerous situations for our pets. Here are a few common holiday hazards ...

1. Candles—The flickering flames of the Menorah

candles may be too tempting for some pets to resist. Keep a lit Menorah out of paws reach.

2. Table Scraps—Foods that we associate with the holidays can lead to serious medical issues for our pets. Turkey, cheese and gravy are too high in fat and could wreak havoc on our pets' digestive systems. Plus, did you know that many dogs are lactose intolerant?

Onions, leeks and garlic make their way into many recipes and can be extremely poisonous to dogs if consumed in large amounts.

3. Candy—By now most of us know that chocolate is off-limits but it's important to realize that this also includes baking chocolate.



MCACC Alum,
Rover

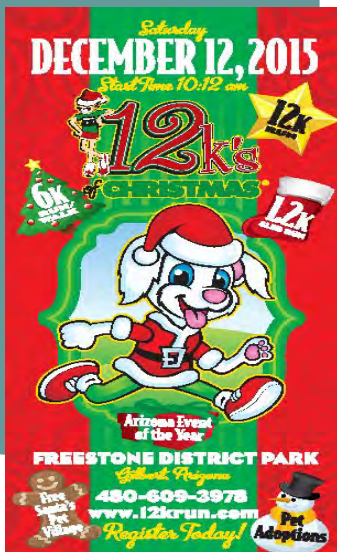
Cellophane or foil wrappers can cause a life-threatening bowel obstruction.

4. Décor—Beware of glass ornaments which may be knocked off the tree, shatter and find their way into your pet's paws. Consider leaving the bottom branches of your tree bare and free of decorations.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Former Chi Town resident,
Gidget



Tis the Season for the 12k's ...

We are honored to once again participate in the annual 12k's of Christmas event at Freestone District Park in Gilbert.

The event takes place on Saturday, December 12th and features a 1.2k family

fun run/walk, 6k and 12k races. Well-behaved owned animals are welcome and we'll be there doing adoptions.

The 12k's also features arts and crafts as well as many other animal welfare

groups in need of support. This is a great family (and pet) friendly event so be sure to Save the Date and register today!

For more information visit www.12krun.com.

Sip, Shop, Socialize and Save Lives



We're honored to once again be part of SNIFF 2015. Now in its fourth year, SNIFF takes place on Thursday, November 12th at Gainey Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. Join us from 5:30 to 7:30pm for silent & live auctions, adoptable pets, wine tasting and more.

Established in 2012, SNIFF funds free and low-cost spay/neuter programs throughout Maricopa County. Last year's event raised \$50,000 for our Spay Neuter Assistance Program and provided 769 spay/neuter surgeries for owned dogs and cats in our community.

Tickets for SNIFF are just \$65 and sell out quickly! You can purchase your ticket online at www.sniffaz.org. Can't make it to the event? Check out the website for many other ways that you can help fund spay/neuter programs.

Join us for a Fall Festival

Fall is here and so is our Fall Festival. Bring the family out to our East Valley Animal Care Center from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, November 14th.

Every dog or cat adopted at the event will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

In addition to adoptions, we'll have games, face painting, crafts and other festivities for kids.

Our goal for the Fall Festival is to encourage those who've never been to our shelter to come out and visit. **The event is made possible by our friends at Maddie's Fund.**



Chi Town Celebrates in Style at Adoption Event



Chi Town resident, Violet, proves that Chihuahuas are cute AND fashionable

Cooler weather signals the start of our mobile adoption season. The coming months are filled with adoption events all over the Valley — and an opportunity for people who may be too overwhelmed to visit our full service shelter locations.

Talbots at Scottsdale Fashion Square is hosting an adoption event on Tuesday, October 27th from 6pm to 8pm. Join us for two hours of fashion and adorable Chi Town residents. Each dog will be escorted by a Chi Town volunteer who can provide plenty of information about the dog's personality, likes and dislikes. Additionally, Talbots is donating 10% of their proceeds during the evening's event. Come out and support MCACC!

For a list of upcoming adoption events, visit our event calendar at www.maricopa.gov/pets.

Santa Paws Project Collects Toys



MCACC Alum
Cosmo enjoying his
toy from last year's
drive

The Santa Paws Project is an organization whose specific purpose is to collect new cat and dog toys to be distributed to the animals at MCACC during the holiday season.

Santa Paws Project founders Marie and Rob Reichstein believe that shelter pets deserve something to call their own this time of year.

Last year, the Santa Paws Project collected more than 400 toys for the animals at MCACC.

This year, Pet Club has offered their 25 Valley stores to serve as collection locations. In addition, KONG has made a generous donation of toys for the project.

Collections will begin on November 9th and continue thru December 9th.

For more information on the Santa Paws Project, contact Rob at Rob.Reichstein@gmail.com.

Compassion Fatigue - What is it?

"Compassion fatigue is emotional exhaustion, caused by the stress of caring for traumatized people or animals." — Charles Figely, PhD. Florida State University Traumatology Institute.

Research is beginning to show that animal shelter workers experience the same type of traumatization as first responders (firefighters, police, Red Cross volunteers, etc).

Dealing with ungrateful or hostile people, seeing abused and neglected animals on a daily basis and being overworked/ understaffed are just a few of the underlying factors that can lead to compassion fatigue.

Compassion fatigue can result in depression, cynicism, burn out, insomnia and chronic physical ailments.

The past several months have been extremely difficult for MCACC workers. Sweltering heat and shelters filled to capacity only contributed to the problem.

But thanks to a kind group of donors, MCACC staff enjoyed a catered meal and more importantly, gratitude from those they serve. Richardson's restaurant donated lunch to MCACC employees to thank them for their hard work during the rough summer months. The

gesture was much appreciated and helped ease the stress of a difficult time.

Compassion fatigue can affect anyone working in animal welfare (either paid or voluntarily). Take a moment to read (and implement) these simple tips

Make self-care your top priority! Eat healthy, exercise daily and spend time with family and friends. Take 30 minutes each day to unwind—meditate or take a quick nap.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for help!

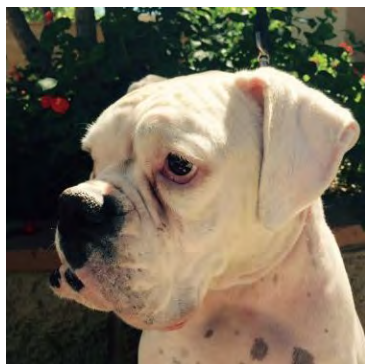


Kind donors drop off
lunch for Shelter
Staff in July

New Hope Spotlight: Boxer Luv Rescue

Founded in 1998, Boxer Luv Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that is run and managed 100% by volunteers.

Boxer Luv's mission is to give new life to homeless Boxers in need. At MCACC, we always know that we can count on them whenever we have a Boxer in need at any of our shelters.



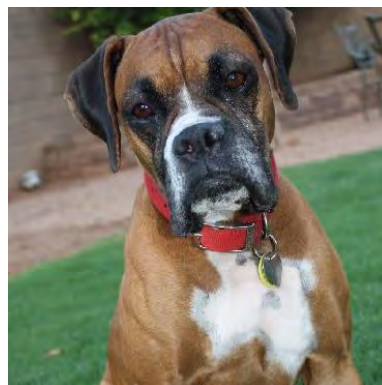
Shelby Lynn is Eager to Find a Loving Family

Randy and his team from Boxer Luv are regulars at MCACC shelters and are seen in our hallways on an almost daily basis.

Many of the animals that Boxer Luv takes from our shelters are sick or injured and require extensive medical treatment. As you can imagine, the medical bills accumulate quickly and the group always appreciates the public's support.

If you cannot support with a monetary gift, Boxer Luv is also looking for foster families, grant writers, administrative support, and assistance at their Thrift Store.

We truly appreciate the support that Boxer Luv



9-year-old Hannah is Looking for a Loving Family

provides us and the animals in our care. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this amazing rescue.

Boxer Luv relies solely on private donations, grants and revenue from their "Luv-To-Save" Thrift Shop. For more information, visit www.boxerluv.org.

Our New Hope Rescue Partners are one of the reasons our euthanasia rates have decreased. Each quarter we will showcase one of these amazing groups!

Corporate Volunteers Make a Difference!



Teamwork! PetSmart volunteers help to clean shelter

In FY15, 556 volunteers donated their time to help the animals at our shelters and off-site adoption locations. Whether it's dog walking, kitty cuddling or cleaning the play yards, everything is appreciated!

Our friends at PetSmart recently visited our East Valley Animal Care Center to assist with cleaning and organizing around the shelter. Not only is group volunteering a wonderful team building experience, it also makes a difference to the animals and staff at MCACC. Now that the weather is cooling down, it's a perfect time to get your group out to our shelter locations.

Many companies designate a specific day and allow their employees to spend the morning or afternoon to help in their community. Does your employer offer this benefit? Ask! And then call us to schedule your corporate volunteer opportunity.

Don't forget, we're always in need of individual volunteers and foster families. For more information, visit our website: <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx>.



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control

Visit One of Our Three Locations!

West Valley Animal Care Center

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)
2500 S. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Animal Care Center

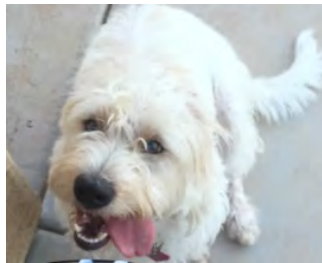
(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)
2630 W. Rio Salado Parkway
Mesa, AZ 85201

PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center

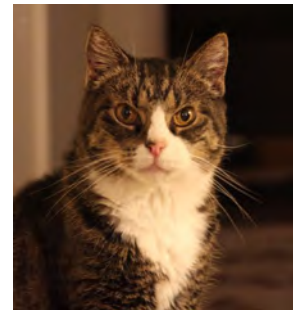
Old Town Scottsdale
(Adoptions Only)
4380 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(602) 506-PETS (7387)

www.pets.maricopa.gov



Leila



Squeak

FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control



Tim, an Army veteran who suffers from severe PTSD, was having trouble certifying his beloved dog Nala as a therapy dog because she wasn't spayed. He thought he couldn't afford the procedure, until he heard about the free spay/neuter surgeries made possible by the generous donations of Friends of Animal Care & Control (FRIENDS).

Thanks to you, thousands of Maricopa County pet parents like Tim get the help they need each year. FRIENDS is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization that raises money to support shelter intervention programs at MCACC. The largest of these programs is the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP provides no-cost spay/neuter services to low-income residents of Maricopa County.

Nala is now on her way to becoming a certified therapy dog, and Tim will soon be able to live a normal life. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to make a difference in the lives of people and pets like Tim and Nala. Please visit www.azfriendsofanimals.org to make a donation.



Tim and Nala